

E. M. HILDEBRAND, PH. D.
PLANT PATHOLOGIST
MICROBIOLOGIST
HORTICULTURIST

LECTURES
SHORT COURSES
CONFERENCES
CONSULTATIONS

Plant Doctor Service

4810 WINFREE

TELEPHONE ML 8969

HOUSTON 21, TEXAS

March 23, 1954

Dr. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

It was nice to get your manuscript "Simple Method for Isolating Individual Microbes". In response to your request my articles "Techniques for the Isolation of Single Microorganisms" I and II were sent under separate cover. Incidentally these reprints represent research done as a hobby because where I have been approval was not given for doing basic research on Experiment Station time. The first was started under Dr. W. H. Wright as an undergraduate research assistant in 1927; the latter was begun in 1933 but did not get very far until the first was submitted for publication in late 1937. The latter was delayed about two years after submittal to account for its 1950 date.

Your manuscript is so brief and to the point that I can see no reason why it shouldn't be submitted for publication. Granted, Phil Trexler at Notre Dame and I have played around with oil a bit. There is the possibility of contamination and inaccuracy when using oil, particularly when in the hands of a novice. There are other methods just as convenient which afford less chance of getting into trouble. When employing oil low aperture microscopy is not reliable for preventing contamination and would not reveal whether or not two cells are stuck together.

The Journal of Bacteriology has a place for short notes in the back. That would seem to be the appropriate outlet. My only criticism is concerned with the presentation in which the procedure is not completely clear. Perhaps a sketch or drawing would help.

Sincerely yours,



E. M. Hildebrand